

2 January 1956

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## 16. Deutscher Lied

In the region of St. Louis, there are no records about Johannes Von Seeger.

I first heard of this man last June or July, when a diplomat said he had heard that this former Nazi editor was employed by the Information Ministry as a propaganda consultant. I requested a report from the Berlin Documents Center, which was forwarded to you and the files.

The next time his name came up was when Bill Stevenson of the Toronto Star tracked him down in an office near Col. Ratner's in the Graham Court Building. Von Leers professed to be a German free-lance journalist who had just happened to sit at a vacant desk when Stevenson found him. Stevenson had been tipped off by someone on Von Leers' activities. The story then was that Von Leers worked for the Egyptian State Broadcasting system as a special expert on programs directed to Israel.

Von Leers' name came up about two weeks ago when Adel Sabat of the "Political and Economic Review" casually mentioned him at a dinner party. Sabat said Von Leers asked him for some extra work and represented himself as a German free-lance. Sabat ventured that Von Leers was reported to be an ex-Nazi propagandist, "but these people aren't important anymore". I thought Sabat belabored the point a bit, perhaps for my benefit.

As best I can recall Von Leers, a man in his 50's, had extensive experience as a propagandist in Nazi Germany. Among other assignments, he was at one time the editor of "Das Schwarze Korps", the official magazine of the SS. He is believed to have fled to Argentina after the war, residing there until the fall of Peron. One report I got from an American newspaperman was that Von Leers had been recruited by the Egyptians in Buenos Aires, and that other similar types were believed to have been hired at the same time.

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